

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method for operating a telephone server includes receiving an incoming call

from a caller, coupling the incoming call to a voice mail server, coupling the incoming call to

10 a voice mail mailbox with the voice mail server, receiving a request from the caller to initiate an outbound call, saving a state of the voice mail server in response to the request, receiving dialing instructions from the caller, processing the dialing instructions to make the outbound call, and restoring the state of the voice mail server after the outbound call is terminated